

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 14, 1908, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Hammondsport, New York. May 14th, 1908. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. Dear Mabel:

Rain — rain — rain. I will leave here for home at the end of the week, experiment or no experiment. I propose to bring with me our invalid Douglas — who has again damaged his damaged leg — this time in the knee. The only way to keep him off a motorcycle is to carry him off. I want his assistance too in preparing for Baddeck experiments. Lucien, I understand, has hurt himself in Toronto, and is in a hospital. He sent to Douglas for pecuniary aid in the emergency. I don't think there is much the matter, although Douglas spoke of a possible operation and mentioned the word "hornia." Hope it may not be as bad as that.

It really seems as if I have nothing but bad news. From Baddeck, through Mr. Bedwin, I hear of the death of the Rev. Mr. McDougall and of Mr. Frazer, the custom officer.

At the end of Lake Keuka opposite to Hammondsport is the town of Penn Yang. I have often wondered how it acquired such a chinese-sounding name. I hear that the first settlers were two men who could not agree upon a name — one was a Pennsylvania Dutchman, and the other a 2 New England Yangkee — and so they compromised upon Penn Yang as the name of the place.

Your loving, Alec.